

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 PM-07 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 OMB-01 L-03 PRS-01 AID-20

IGA-02 MMS-03 USIA-15 RSR-01 /110 W

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R 221300Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2709

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

S E C R E T KINGSTON 2838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PN JM

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF USSOUTHCOM FROM CANAL ZONE

REF: STATE 164406

1. THE TRANSFER OF USSOUTHCOM FROM THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE TO ANOTHER LOCATION WOULD REQUIRE A FEW MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN JAMAICA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE IS TIED INTO THE USSOUTHCOM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AT PANAMA. USSOUTHCOM ALSO PROVIDES MINOR ITEMS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE TRAINING OR TRAINING MATERIAL AREAS TO THE JDF. AIR CRAFT ON SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS FROM PANAMA OCCASIONALLY FLY AS FAR AS JAMAICAN WATERS. THESE ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE MADE WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY GIVEN SUFFICIENT ADVANCED WARNING.

2. THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HAVE ALMOST NO AWARENESS OF USSOUTHCOM AND THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES. THEREFORE, THE PUBLIC IMPACT OF MOVING THE COMMAND TO THE CONUS WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE. INDEED, THERE MIGHT BE SOME POSITIVE EFFECT IF THE MOVE WERE TAKEN AS A SIGNAL OF DIMINISHED US INTERESTS AND DIRECT

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INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND

SOUTH AMERICA.

3. A MOVE OF USSOUTHCOM TO PUERTO RICO, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT HAVE SOME SLIGHT EFFECT IN STIRRING THE VESTIGIAL FEARS OF US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THIS IMPACT, IF ANY, WOULD BE MINOR. THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA AND THEIR GOVERNMENT ARE FULLY AWARE OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN BOTH GUANTANAMO AND PUERTO RICO AND DO NOT APPEAR TO REGARD IT AS A THREAT. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THERE IS ANY PARTICULAR ADVANTAGE IN MOVING USSOUTHCOM TO PUERTO RICO AS OPPOSED TO CONUS, AND THE JAMAICANS PROBABLY WOULD TOO.

HEWITT

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TAGS: MARR, RQ, JM, PQ, US
To: STATE
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